

KGO-TV
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

**QUARTERLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY ISSUES AND
RELATED PROGRAMMING**

FIRST QUARTER 2018
REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

During the First Quarter of 2018, KGO-TV aired the following regularly scheduled local newscasts identified on air as “ABC 7 News” with a total cumulative average of over 100 hours per month:

<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>4:30-7:00AM</i>
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>11:00-11:30AM</i>
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>4:00-5:00PM</i>
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>5:00-5:30PM</i>
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>6:00-7:00PM</i>
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>11:00-11:35PM</i>
<i>Saturday & Sunday</i>	<i>11:00PM-12:00AM</i>
<i>Saturday & Sunday</i>	<i>5:00-6:00AM / 6:00-7:00AM</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>8:00-9:00AM / 4:30-5:00PM</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>9:00-10:00AM</i>
<i>Saturday & Sunday</i>	<i>5:00-5:30PM & 6:00-6:30PM</i>

THE LIVE WELL NETWORK- KGO-TV / 7.2 HD

KGO-TV's D2 sub-channel airs the "Live Well Network," a single free 24/7 over-the-air digital platform channel providing viewers with original content focusing on home, health and lifestyle.

The "Live Well Network" offers programs entitled- Let's Dish, Deals, Mirror/Mirror, Mexico: One Plate at a Time, Knock It Off, The Balancing Act, The Chew, Food Rush and My Family Recipe Rocks, and Home with Lisa Quinn along with others.

LAFF TV NETWORK- KGO-TV / 7.3 SD

KGO-TV's D3 sub-channel airs the "LAFF TV Network," a single free 24/7 over-the-air digital platform channel providing viewers with comedy programming content. The "LAFF TV Network," airs vintage sitcoms and theatrical movies with a comedic theme.

KGO-TV'S D2 Live Well Network & KGO-TV'S D3 LAFF TV network signals carry Public Service Announcements and Children's Core Programming as described in the Quarterly FCC 398 Children's Report.

During the first quarter of 2018, KGO-TV also aired the following locally produced programming that addressed the problems and needs of the San Francisco-San Jose-Oakland Market area:

BEYOND THE HEADLINES WITH CHERYL JENNINGS: This locally produced public affairs program consisted of a variety of subjects primarily dealing with issues related to the local community. The program's objective was to go "beyond the headlines" and explore critical issues facing the community. KGO-TV's Cheryl Jennings hosted this program that aired Sundays from 4:30 to 5:00pm.

SEVEN ON YOUR SIDE: Michael Finney headed this consumer affairs unit that provided consumer information / product recalls during local 5:00pm newscasts, and reviewed investigations / resolutions during 6:00pm newscasts. Office staff answered letters, email and hotline telephone calls from viewers seeking help with a wide variety of consumer problems. On the average, the unit received over 500 e-mails / letters, and over 1000 phone calls per month.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The following community events were featured on KGO-TV's "Around the Bay," KGO-TV's vehicle for sponsoring upcoming community events hosted or, moderated by KGO-TV personnel. Each of these thirty-second spots featured two to three events, and aired for two weeks on a fixed schedule:

AROUND THE BAY 1ST QTR 2018

1/1 – 1/12/18

FOG Design & Art Fair benefiting San Francisco MOMA (1/10- 1/14)
Performing Stars of Marin: Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1/14)

1/27 – 2/9/18

Academy of Friends: benefiting HIV/AIDS agencies (3/4)
Okizu: Art Inspiring Hope Gala (3/10) Dan and Natasha MC
YTH Live Conference: Youth + Technology + Health (5/6-7)

2/10 – 2/23/18

Make a Wish Greater Bay Area: Wine & Wishes (3/10)
YMCA of San Francisco: Y for Youth Luncheon, (March 9)
Photofairs: San Francisco (2/22-2/25)

2/24 – 3/9/18

Ronald McDonald House Charities: House Party! (3/17)
Friends of Children with Special Needs: Sp. Needs Talent Showcase (3/24)
SF Gay Men's Chorus: Bridges (3/29)

3/10 – 3/23/18

National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse: Dose of Awareness 5k (3/25)
City Picnic: Education Outside (4/4)
Best Buddies: Friendship Walk (4/21)

3/24 – 4/6/18

Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County: Volunteer Recognition Lunch (4/12)
Best Buddies: Friendship Walk (4/21)
Earth Day San Francisco (4/21)

KGO-TV also airs syndicated programming on its main D1 channel that includes Children's Core Programming as described in the Children's 398 report which is filed separately in the Public Inspection File.

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In addition to the local news and public affairs programs described in this report, KGO-TV carries all of the ABC Television news & public affairs programs listed and described in the report filed as "Network Programming."

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KGO-TV applies feedback from the community in determining the key local issues, problems, and needs. Some of the station's most significant treatments of these issues are described on the following pages:

- ***I-TEAM / SPECIAL NEWS REPORTS***
- ***GUN CONTROL***
- ***CONSUMERISM / 7 ON YOUR SIDE***
- ***CRIME & LAW ENFORCEMENT***
- ***IMMIGRATION ISSUES***
- ***TRANSPORTATION***

I-TEAM / SPECIAL NEWS REPORTS

TUE 2/16/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM - (1:40)

Chrysler is issuing a recall for 2017 Pacifica minivans, except hybrids, two months after the ABC7 I-Team reported some drivers experienced a stalling problem. After a Menlo Park doctor told I-Team Reporter Dan Noyes a frightening account of a stall in high-speed traffic, the company believes they may have found the problem.

The recall affects nearly 154,000 Chrysler Pacifica minivans, model year 2017, including one driven by Dr. Sid Patel last September on Northbound Highway 101 in the morning commute. Patel told Dan Noyes the minivan lost power in the fast lane, and that he had a close call as he coasted to the shoulder when a big rig was bearing down on him. "I kinda braced for impact," said Patel. "And I just grabbed onto the steering wheel really tight and you know I thought, 'Okay, something bad's going to happen right now.'" Patel made it off the highway and started recording. Patel can be heard on cellphone video saying, "My car died with 300 miles on the car, this is crazy... It won't let me move." The dealer thought it was simply a bad connector, but Dr. Patel refused to drive the minivan again and got his money back.

Now, Chrysler is ordering a software update for all 2017 Pacifica minivans except hybrids, saying "under a rare set of conditions, a vehicle's engine control module (ECM) may incorrectly assess the engine's operating status. If this occurs, the engine may stall." The I-Team found more than 50 owner complaints of the Pacifica stalling, filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Chrysler says most of those stalls happened at a low, safe speed and that it's aware of just one accident possibly related to the stalling issue -- no injuries.

FRI 2/2/18 - ABC7 NEWS 6PM - (5:30)

I-Team Investigates the Largest Landlord in San Francisco

Chaos erupts after a measure that would have strengthened rent control failed to pass the State Assembly Housing Committee three weeks ago -- a major setback for tenants in the midst of the housing crisis. Dozens of those protesters live in buildings owned by the largest landlord in San Francisco, Veritas Investments. I-Team Reporter Dan Noyes has been investigating complaints about the company. Veritas is quite open about their target audience -- it's high-tech workers from out of state. And that leaves some long-time tenants feeling left out and worried about their future. Forty-nine-year-old Yat-Pang Au founded Veritas Investments in 2007 -- you see signs for the leasing arm of his company, RentSFNow, all over San Francisco. He explained in a Pension Real Estate Association profile that millennials are his target demographic.

"About 70 to 80 percent of them are those young techies," Au said. "And more often than not, they are not from the San Francisco Bay Area and they're moving into San Francisco." Veritas now owns about 240 buildings across San Francisco -- more than 5,000 apartments -- and just bought its first building in Oakland. "A lot of the stories are heart-wrenching stories," San Francisco Supervisor Aaron Peskin told Dan Noyes. He's been hearing complaints about the company. "They're buying these buildings at extremely high prices," said Peskin. "And under San Francisco rent control laws are passing on the debt on those buildings to their tenants." With rent control, landlords are allowed annual increases tied to the rate of inflation. This year, the approved rent increase is 1.6 percent. But, Peskin explains San Francisco allows landlords to pass on their loan debt to tenants, along with operation and maintenance costs. He has co-sponsored a measure to stop these so-called "pass-throughs." Retired hospice worker Pat Magee has lived in the same rent-controlled Powell Street studio for 37 years. Veritas bought her building and in December, with pass-throughs, her rent climbed from \$383 a month to \$818 -- a 114 percent increase.

(NEXT PAGE)

(I-Team CONT.)

"I couldn't believe it at first," said Magee. "I was just kind of like, yeah, OK, sure." Her rent will settle in with a 34 percent increase for this coming year. Dan Noyes asked, "How hard was it paying that extra amount of money for you?" Magee answered, "It was hard because I'm still kind of like -- the money had to come out of my little savings, I've been trying to save up for my teeth." Yat-Pang Au declined the I-Team's request for an interview, but provided his Vice President of Asset Management. Dan Noyes: "It was a huge shock to her, what do you say to Pat Magee?"

Joan Cress: "So, I can't talk about specific renters." Cress cited privacy concerns, even though Noyes explained Pat Magee agreed to have her story told. Cress emphasized that pass-throughs are currently allowed under San Francisco law, and that tenants can apply to the Rent Board for an exemption. Cress said, "What I can tell you is that we make every effort to work with every single resident in the buildings that we own." "They don't see the relationships, the community, the contributions these tenants have made," Brad Hirn of Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco told Dan Noyes. "They see dollar signs." Hirn says, while Veritas concentrates on renovating vacant apartments to attract new clients, some long-time tenants paying below-market rents feel neglected. "We see tenants fed up, tired, exhausted and angry." Take three examples: Doris Johnson is disabled, uses a walker. She says her old landlord kept the elevator running, but after Veritas bought the building, the elevator was out 65 days in a row, essentially trapping Doris in her apartment. Doris: "I could not schedule any of those appointments due to the fact that I couldn't get out of the building." Dan: "You missed doctor's appointments?" Doris: "Hmm-mmm." Dan: "She was trapped in her apartment for two months straight. How does that happen?" Joan Cress: "It's a very unusual situation, it is a very unfortunate situation." Cress explains that the company had to have custom parts made, and that perhaps in the future, Veritas should have replacement parts standing by for these old elevators.

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(I-Team CONT.)

"We're not perfect," Cress says. "So we take instances like this to heart."

Example number two: Greg Lawler says his old landlord used to fix the trash chutes when they got clogged, but the same week they took over, Veritas just closed them off for good.

"Immediately we noticed a change in this building as far as amenities being taken away from us," Lawler said. Dan Noyes: "Why block over trash chutes?" Joan Cress: "Why block over trash chutes? That is not a question that I was anticipating, Dan." Cress says tenants sometimes stuff too much into the trash chutes, blocking them and causing a fire hazard, but that Veritas may consider reopening the trash chutes because of feedback from tenants.

Example three: water damage in Amina Rubio's apartment.

Amina: "It came down through here. That was the first thing."

Dan: "Just coming down?" Amina: "Yeah, it was just like being in a storm." She was concerned about mold setting in, and asked Veritas for repairs. Rubio said, "I asked for it to be looked at and they didn't start looking at it for approximately six months." The apartment is now repaired. Joan Cress wouldn't comment on Amina's case specifically, but said they sometimes have to prioritize repair calls. "If it's something that may not be life/safety related, then our goal would be to respond to that within 48 hours," Cress said. One other note -- Veritas chose this furnished apartment across from the Ritz Carlton Hotel as the setting for our interview.

Joan: "So, somebody could come in and rent this for a month or two months or three months." Dan: "So, a corporate rental."

Joan: "It is a corporate rental, yes." Veritas confirms they have 200 apartments they rent for short-term corporate housing. Supervisor Peskin calls that "deeply concerning," and that the units should be for people who want to live and work here. Veritas insists they want all their tenants to remain as long as they want, no matter what they pay.

WED 2/21/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM - (2:10)

State OES Report- Sonoma Co. Firestorm Emergency Response Could Have Been Better

In East Santa Rosa, Kathryn Titus had clothes to fold and put away, this morning, lots of them. "If you had smelled them it would have been like you were sitting in front of a campfire," she said. But that was no campfire rolling toward her home the night of Oct. 8th. As bad as it looked, Kathryn did not know for certain the firestorm's destructive potential and blames Sonoma County's emergency response for that. "It was an epic failure." Now California's Office of Emergency Services is criticizing Sonoma County for not being faster and more efficient about warning people.

Tuesday, Supervisor James Gore heard a briefing of the as yet to be released report. "I want to apologize to everyone in Sonoma County for our not having the foresight to review things to the point where they needed to be," said Gore. "The worst it says is that we were not prepared for the future we live in. No one discounts the heroism of first responders that night. However, residents like Kathryn Titus expected more. "There was no evacuation order. It was run for your life." The Sonoma County Sheriff's department received 450 calls the first hour. They sent out Nixles and reverse 911 calls. But that night, the county never activated its integrated public alert system, also called IPAS.

Wednesday - The sheriff's department would have used the amber alert- type system if allowed. "The Sheriff's Department does not have IPAS Access. Should it? We're working on it....we should." It's a case of hindsight being 20/20 -- public agencies and first responders doing their best in a catastrophe, using a system that appears to need more and better coordination. "That is unfortunate if that is the best they've got," said Kathryn Titus, who still has post traumatic stress after the flames chased her down Mark West Springs Road. The memory still haunts her. "It is hard to see your neighborhood gone... that devastation every day. It wears you down." "We've got to do better," said Supervisor Gore. "We didn't know what we didn't know."

MON 2/26/18 - ABC7 NEWS 6PM - (5:30)

I-Team Investigates: Sexual harassment Complaints at the Humane Society

The Humane Society of the United States is reeling from a sexual harassment scandal involving the group's two most prominent leaders. The ABC7 I-Team has interviewed several Northern California women who say they've been warning about problems at the non-profit for years. These women tell Dan Noyes they reported sexual harassment at HSUS, but didn't go public with their complaints at the time for fear of losing their jobs.

Ariana Huemer now runs a sanctuary called "Hen Harbor" in the Santa Cruz Mountains and remembers her 17 years at the Humane Society of the United States, exposed to what she calls the "bro culture". "They will be very excited if somebody, if the new hire was hot," said Huemer. "That was the topic of conversation or if she had big boobs, that would be amazing." Huemer tells the I-Team male executives sleeping with subordinates was common, and that she reached her breaking point when the talk became very explicit. "And he said, 'Oh, so-and-so likes this sexual act,' whatever that was," Huemer recounted. "And I was like, 'What? How do you know?' And he said, 'Oh, because we have pictures of it.'"

She says the pictures circulated among the staff. Huemer left HSUS in 2014 after complaining about sexual harassment and reaching a settlement with the group, in which they denied any wrong-doing. "Women have been quitting HSUS for years because of these issues," Alex Bury told the I-Team. She left her position as HSUS fundraiser because of how the non-profit responded to her problems with a major donor. "He got out and you know went to hug me," Bury explained. "And I tried to step away and he kissed me, and so at that point I did break away and left, he you know grabbed at my breast." Bury tells Dan Noyes she had handled advances from donors before, but she claims the response from an HSUS executive this time was shocking.

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(I-Team CONT.)

Alex: "Take one for the team." Dan: "He said, 'Take one for the team?'" Alex: "Yes. "Dan: "Do you think that he was kidding, half kidding or serious?" Alex: "I think half kidding." Dan: "But, there was a message there." Alex: "Absolutely, yes. Do anything for the cause."

That executive, Vice President Paul Shapiro, denies Alex Bury's account, but Politico reported in January that six women complained about inappropriate behavior by Shapiro in recent years, including claims he "asked them to have sex and told lewd jokes in the office." Shapiro, that once public face of the Humane Society, declined an on-camera interview, but said he left HSUS for unrelated reasons after the New Year. He sent a statement that reads in part, "I sometimes acted inappropriately, for which I'm deeply sorry. I engaged in sophomoric and unprofessional behavior. I should have known better and sincerely regret my thoughtlessness and poor decisions." As Shapiro's story broke in January, accusations also surfaced about the Humane Society's CEO Wayne Pacelle. "Women I didn't even know had stories were coming out of the woodwork and saying Alex what's the phone number, is it would happen to me for years ago," Bury said.

The Washington Post reports that investigators hired by the Humane Society interviewed 33 people, and that "several former high-ranking women had warned Pacelle ... his sexual relationships with subordinates, donors and volunteers could hurt the charity." Wayne Pacelle declined our request for an on-camera interview, but emailed the I-Team, "Never did I intend to make any colleague feel uncomfortable; nevertheless I am very concerned that some individuals apparently felt that way. I do, however, deny that I took any action that crossed the line." Pacelle resigned as CEO earlier this month.

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(I-Team CONT.)

"I can't believe I had to fight the organization I love to try to save its soul," Jennifer Fearing told the I-Team. She worked closely with Wayne Pacelle as the HSUS California director, before heading out on her own as a Sacramento lobbyist. She told an audience at the Animal Law Conference in October, "There is no legitimate excuse for tolerating male predatory behavior, period." Fearing now refuses to lobby for the Humane Society, and is unsatisfied with the non-profit's handling of sexual harassment complaints.

**Jennifer: "I would not be signing that contract and affiliating myself with HSUS until they had a complete leadership change."
Dan: "You cut ties." Jennifer: "Yup."**

The nation's largest animal protection organization is scrambling to recover, as seven board members resigned and some donors pulled funding. "We will provide a safe and secure workplace," said Kitty Block, the new acting HSUS CEO Kitty Block. She declined our request for an interview, but posted a statement on the HSUS website. "The compassion we seek in the world will be the foundation of everything we do and every interaction we have," Block said. Dan: "What have you done or what has HSUS done for a concrete change to make this a better place for women?"

Humane Society acting CEO Kitty Block: "Well, I'd like to think the first concrete step is hiring me."

After declining to be interviewed for last night's report, the new Humane Society acting CEO Kitty Block contacted me today to say the non-profit is undergoing internal reviews to address the complaints. "If there is anyone out there who does have concerns, please come in, please let us know, I want to better the situation, we're working to better the situation and we're all here because we're committed to the cause of animal protection," Block said.

TUE 3/13/18 - ABC7 MORNING NEWS - (1:35)

Berkeley City Council to Discuss Racial Disparities in Police Review Commission Report

Even though African Americans make up less than 10 percent of the population in Berkeley, they are six times more likely to experience use of force from police than white residents, according to a new report. Berkeley's city council is set to discuss that report Tuesday night.

They looked at data from the police department from 2015 and concluded there are clear patterns of bias. For example, black pedestrians were three and a half times more likely to be stopped by the police than were white pedestrians, but walked away with few arrests or citations, indicating people are being stopped for no reason.

The report has a number of recommendations, including getting body cameras for police as soon as possible and having police ask a person if they can search them - and not allowing them to without consent. Police did respond-- saying, "Our officers receive training on racial profiling and inherent bias. We have a general order dedicated to Fair and Impartial Policing. As a department we are committed to policing our community with equity."

THU 3/22/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM - (1:58)

In the North Bay, one might describe damage from the last night's storm as being predictably unpredictable. Angelina Marrufo of Santa Rosa certainly never imagined the havoc an oak tree would cause in her front yard. "We've seen it swaying but we never thought it could fall." It did, however, threading a large needle between her apartment and the street. It missed her bedroom and landed atop a car parked on West Steele Lane.

"It felt like an earthquake. A big bang," she said. "I was saved by an angel."

In Monte Rio, a large bay tree fell on an unoccupied house. There were no injuries, but plenty of splinters. Elsewhere, the junction of Highway 12 and 121 in Schellville has a long history of flash floods. Today, another, with one-foot deep water. The driver of a red Toyota escaped unharmed, but wet.

FRI 3/23/18 - ABC7 NEWS 6PM - (4:25)

A federal civil rights lawsuit was served today against Santa Clara County, accusing a sheriff's deputy of corruption -- of using his position to pick up women. I-Team reporter Dan Noyes has a story you'll see only on ABC7 News.

This lawsuit contains a serious accusation -- that the deputy filed a false child abuse report against a father, while he was seducing the child's mother. Amber Saldana and Tom Sandoval have been dating off and on since they were teens; they have a six-year-old daughter together. The lawsuit says last May on the family ranch in Gilroy, Tom's father "claimed (Amber) attempted to ram him while driving a car" and that he called police. Santa Clara County Sheriff's Deputy Bryan Plett responded.

In an exclusive interview, Tom Sandoval told Dan Noyes, "When the police got there, they didn't issue a citation, they didn't make an incident report, they didn't even make Amber leave."

Sandoval said Deputy Plett came back to the ranch a few days later, as Amber was moving out. The lawsuit says:

- Plett "asked for her phone number" , "Pursued a romantic relationship" with Amber, including "make-out sessions in Plett's patrol car" and "sexual relations at the Hilton Hotel in Gilroy" -, and that Plett hatched a "plan to lodge false claims of abuse and neglect" against Tom, to get Amber custody of her daughter. "It's just the most despicable behavior," said Robert Powell. "I mean, can you imagine being ripped from your child for that man's lust for your mother of your child? That's a pretty horrendous set of facts."

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According to the lawsuit, Deputy Plett described Tom in the incident report "as an abusive, drug-addled, neglectful father" and that he "spanked (his daughter) in the buttocks very hard and left a small bruise". Tom tells Dan Noyes he explained to Plett, he took good care of his daughter and never spanked her. "And then it dawned on me," Sandoval said. "Where were these bruises located? So I asked him and that's when he told me and I said, 'That's her birthmark.'" Still, based on Plett's report, a judge granted an emergency protective order and ordered Tom to stand trial for child endangerment.

Just days away from the court date, the complaint says Amber recanted her story in an email to the prosecutor: "Everything that I had said was completely exaggerated...He's a good father and I don't think he deserves to get in trouble for my lies." Charges dropped. Tom Sandoval is now suing Deputy Plett, and he says, "I just think he needs to find something else to do for a living beside law enforcement because he's running around doing this to God knows who else, I just don't think that's right."

The lawsuit claims Plett bragged to other deputies "how he had responded in the past to dispatch calls and obtained phone numbers from female citizens that he would then pursue in furtherance of sexual relations." Dan Noyes went to the South County Sheriff's Substation in San Martin to talk to Plett, and got several different stories -- that he was on patrol, was off for the day, and that he called in sick for his new assignment in San Jose. Dan Noyes did reach Deputy Plett on his cell phone; he was surprised by the call. He told us he wouldn't have any comment about the lawsuit, about a possible false police report, or about the couple, Tom and Amber.

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His lawyer sent a statement late today that reads in part, "The claims made in this lawsuit are unfounded. Ms. Saldana came to the Sheriff's Department substation and made child abuse allegations against Thomas Sandoval ... Deputy Plett prepared a report that was entirely based on her statements and recorded interview of the alleged victim." The lawsuit also says the prosecutor on the case contacted higher-ups in the DA's Office and the Sheriff's Department about the false child abuse report, but they failed to investigate. "They should have referred it for investigation just like any kind of a crime because that's a crime," says Attorney Robert Powell. "A false police report is a crime, and it's a crime even if a police officer does it."

Amber Saldana is disputing what Plett's lawyer is saying. She declined an on-camera interview but texted Dan Noyes that she had no idea Deputy Plett was filing a false child abuse report against her boyfriend. No comment from the DA's Office, and through a spokesman, Sheriff Laurie Smith said I was the first to tell her of the case, and they have launched an internal review. Here is the complete statement from Deputy Bryan Plett's attorney, Harry S. Stern: "The claims made in this lawsuit are unfounded. Ms. Saldana came to the Sheriff's Department substation and made child abuse allegations against Thomas Sandoval, who is her minor child's father. Deputy Plett is legally mandated to report such charges, regardless of the circumstances. Deputy Plett prepared a report that was entirely based on her statements and a recorded interview of the alleged victim. He also included significant exculpatory information in the report. I am informed that despite naming her as a defendant, the plaintiff obtained Ms. Saldana's cooperation by an agreement to pay for plastic surgery. This certainly calls Sandoval's credibility and motivation into question."

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Here is the complete statement from Santa Clara County Sheriff Laurie Smith: "The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office fully investigates all claims of alleged misconduct in order to maintain the highest level of public trust. Our office has not received any complaint regarding the alleged conduct. We were notified of these allegations through the media and as such we have initiated an internal review of this matter. I expect all staff to meet the high standards of our office, and when they do not, they will be held accountable." Santa Clara County District Attorney Spokesman Sean Webby emailed: "In light of the just-filed lawsuit against the County, we are not in a position to make any comments at this time."

GUN CONTROL

MON 2/19/18 - ABC7 NEWS 6PM (1:24)

Students, Parents Hold Gun Control Rally in Santa Rosa

Typically, students observe President's Day by looking back at American History. In Santa Rosa Monday morning, their parents used this holiday to look current events directly in the eye. Less than a week ago Michele Gervais was just a mother with a couple of twins.

Now, in Santa Rosa, she has helped give birth to a rally and a movement. On this national holiday when school kids learn about presidents and history, they're looking at current events-- the Florida school shooting, and also staring down the National Rifle Association for contributing to political campaigns. "We would like to make history," said Gervais. "This is cathartic and commemorative." Gervais wants people to rise up, "Not to argue, but to act in the spirit of right makes might. As adults we need to let the children lead us, letting our light shine."

THU 2/22/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM (1:15)

Oakland Unified Seeks to Make Schools Safer Without Guns

Arming teachers with guns is not a new idea, in fact, on Thursday President Donald Trump suggested looking into the possibility of allowing "gun concealed guns to gun-adept teachers with military or special training experience." Oakland Unified School District is opposed to the idea and is instead looking at other ways to protect students. Oakland Unified is the only school district in the Bay Area with its own police force, 20 armed officers and 90 unarmed civilian officers embedded in the schools.

Surveillance video cameras at most Oakland schools are monitored at police headquarters, giving them an advantage. "We know the hallways, we know the classrooms, we know the nooks and crannies. A lot of officers from an outside agency would come in and not understand some of the structural issues that we deal with," explained the Chief Jeff Godown, who heads the OUSD police department. He says the other benefit of having its own police department is that the schools can communicate directly with the officers.

"So we have the ability to instantly go out and start looking at that problem when it's small in nature so it doesn't develop and we do that about half a dozen times a month, " added Godown. On Thursday the National Rifle Association CEO, Wayne LaPierre, called for hardening our schools. That was the message delivered by the National Rifle Association which supports arming school personnel with guns, a proposal Chief Godown and others in the district are against.

"We are not going to arm teachers to try to fix what is society's problem of too many weapons and too many guns, " said the President of the Oakland Educators Association, Trish Gorham. Nina Senn is a school board member who on Wednesday will introduce legislation to make Oakland schools even safer by having a tip line and mandating that all principals and front office staff get trained in how to deal with an active shooter. Until now, it has been on a voluntary basis.

FRI 2/23/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM (1:15)

San Francisco Teacher's Union Doesn't Want Guns On Campus

The Parkland School Shooting is re-igniting the debate over whether teachers should carry guns. The NRA and President Trump have endorsed the idea. But, the union representing San Francisco teacher is against it and experts say carrying a weapon requires training and judgment. At least eight states allow teachers to carry guns on campus to deal with a would-be shooter. But, the teacher's union in San Francisco says no way. "As a teacher and as the president of the teacher's union, I can tell you that's a crazy idea," said San Francisco Teacher's Union President Lita Blanc.

She says it's all teachers can do to teach, keep order, and look out for the well-being of students under their care now, without the responsibility of keeping a gun close enough to reach and at the same time - keep it a safe distance from students. "If you're going to arm educators, arm us with books, arm us with smaller class size, arm us with fully funded classrooms," Blanc added. Then, there's the training. Cadets in California's police academies undergo three weeks of training with handguns, shotguns, and rifles -- and that's not all.

"Using the weapon is one aspect of the training, but the bigger aspect is the decision making about when to use it and how to operate in a highly stressed situation," said Captain Louie Triona, who is in charge of weapons training for the Richmond Police Department. Nobody is saying teachers would get the same training as cops, but anyone who carries a gun regularly would need to develop and maintain a certain level of skill.

Tirona says when a new officer joins his department, they must undergo an additional 40 hours of firearms training. "On top of that, officers at least 10 times a year actually go to the range to train their marksmanship and gun handling skills," he said.

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Tirona is not taking a position on who should be armed, but the Richmond Police Department is making a key change following the Florida shooting. Since the gunman tripped the fire alarm to get people to leave their classrooms and move into the kill zone, anytime a fire alarm is tripped in Richmond schools, police officers will accompany firefighters.

THU 3/1/18 - ABC7 NEWS 6PM (1:55)

Congressman Jared Huffman Visits North Bay Schools To Talk About Gun Violence. Students in two North Bay schools got a rare opportunity Thursday to talk about school safety and gun violence with the congressman who represents them. The visits came in the wake of last month's mass shooting in Parkland, Florida. North Bay Democrat Jared Huffman looked over the 90 or so sixth, seventh and eighth graders in the gym at Lagunitas Middle School in San Geronimo and said, "I've been looking forward to this conversation with you." The format was question and answer, and the students didn't waste any time. Question: "How do you feel about the right to bear arms and to buy semi-automatic handguns?"

Huffman: "We've always allowed reasonable restrictions on the right to bear arms under the Second Amendment." Meaning, the Constitution may affirm the right to bear arms, but not all arms. Huffman says nothing would prevent Congress from banning assault type rifles. Huffman's appearance comes two weeks after 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz opened fire with an AR-15 rifle inside a Parkland, Florida High School killing 17 people. The result: anxious students and worried parents across the country. Both schools reached out to Congressman Huffman's office to talk about school safety and gun violence and he was glad to oblige.

THU 3/1/18 - ABC7 NEWS 6PM (1:50)

Gabby Giffords visits Bay Area to Fight for National Gun Control

Former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords was shot in the head in 2011. Thursday, at an event in San Francisco, she did not mince words, as she demanded nationwide gun control. "Now is the time to come together, be responsible. Democrats, Republicans, everyone, we must never stop fighting," exclaimed Giffords.

Giffords, her husband, retired astronaut, Mark Kelly, and University of California President Janet Napolitano, all spoke about gun violence and the need for gun control. The event was a fundraiser for a UC Santa Cruz scholarship in honor of Giffords' former aide, Gabe Zimmerman, who was killed during the assassination attempt on Gifford.

The shooter used a semi-automatic pistol, equipped with a high capacity magazine, to shoot Zimmerman and 18 others at a 'Congress on Your Corner' event in a grocery store parking lot in Tucson, Arizona on January 8, 2011. "I've seen great courage when my life was on the line," said Giffords who was meeting with her constituents at the time of the shooting. "Be bold, be courageous, the nation is counting on you," she added.

"It is a colossal problem here in the United States," says Kelly who explains that 35,000 people die from gunshot wounds every year in the U.S. and another 100,000 are wounded in shootings. "There is a portion of our society, certain individuals, and organizations that who would like us to think that this is normal. It's not normal. We are unlike any other country when it comes to gun violence. We have mass shootings at a rate comparable with the country of Yemen," explains Kelly.

WED 3/14/18 - ABC7 NEWS 6PM (1:38)

South Bay College Students March for Gun Control Safety

It was not just high school students who engaged in walkouts over gun violence on Wednesday. So did college students, such as the estimated 400 who gathered outside the historic Mission Church on the campus of Santa Clara University at 10AM. Jesuit Novice Tony Cortese read aloud the names of the students, faculty and staff members killed at the Parkland, Florida high school one month ago while students bowed their heads in remembrance.

Leaders of the campus group Santa Clara Community Action Program (SCCAP), which organized the walkout, talked about the need for change to stop gun violence and to make students safer. Then they took a walk across the Silicon Valley campus, chanting "grades up, guns down" and "protect kids, not guns." The procession cut through Benson Center, a dining and student activities building, where some students were seen studying, working on laptops and eating instead of marching.

Participants shared with ABC7 News their passion that they want to see lawmakers listen to them and others, who are adamant that stricter gun laws are needed to protect students in the classroom and on campuses. "By standing in solidarity with the students of Parkland and with every other student that has experienced gun violence in their school, we are telling our state and national leaders that enough is enough," said Harshitha Mogallapalli, a Santa Clara University senior and one of the organizers of the Wednesday walkout.

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(CONT.)

Another senior, Ryan Kincheloe, said "You've got to care for your fellow man, fellow being, and current gun control doesn't fully allow for that." The group SCCAP is providing students with resources to take action after the march, such as writing to lawmakers. Meredith Anderson, another organizer, thinks the activism on display at the march will have a lasting impact. "I think student movements definitely in the past have had a lot of momentum to make a big change," she said, "so I think this definitely could as well."

But like a flash mob that suddenly brought people together, 30 minutes later, the grass and plaza outside the church was instantly empty. The students disappeared, presumably going back to class.

TUE 2/20/18 - ABC7 NEWS 11:30AM (:38)

Livermore Police Say High School Students Playing Game Involving Fake Weapons

Parents in Livermore are being asked to talk to their kids about a game being played by high school students, in which students target each other in order to "assassinate" each other with fake weapons, police said Saturday. Police were recently notified about the game, which is called "Spy versus Spy" or "Assassins" and is being played by seniors at Livermore and Granada high schools, according to police.

The game is organized by students and those participating must pay to play. The students then form teams and pit the teams against each other, with the goal of "assassinating" one another with toys guns or markers until there is only one team left. The winning team then gets a cash prize. Police said the game is not school endorsed and is played off campus, with teams playing in public places, often times hiding in bushes or outside an opponent's home.

Because of this, police have received reports of armed individuals, suspicious individuals, prowlers, and reckless driving in connection with the game. Police said they respond to each report anticipating a real emergency. "Parents please talk to your teens, we don't want to see some type of tragic event happen due to teens playing a game," police said in a statement.

CONSUMERISM, 7 ON YOUR SIDE

FRI, 2/2/18 - ABC 7 NEWS 6PM (2:45)

How to Stop Annoying Spam Calls

Are you tired of answering telephone calls from fake IRS agents and timeshare salespeople? If so, Seven on Your Side's Michael Finney has a solution that might work for you. RoboKiller automatically blocks over 100,000 telemarketers and robocalls from ringing, even if they are spoofing or changing their numbers.

Take back your phone & get revenge on the spammers. The app claimed an estimated 90% reduction in spam calls within 30 days. Since the block list is always current it claims that you're always Protected.

FRI 3/2/18 - ABC 7 NEWS 6PM (2:50)

Petaluma Family Found an Error That Has Gone on for 22 years

If you've paid a bill you shouldn't have, you should be reimbursed, right? What if you paid that bill for more than two decades? Should you be reimbursed all that money?

Kenneth Fok's sister invited him to move 22 years ago to her 1-acre lot, where there are two homes on one property. Ken lived rent-free in the rear while she lived in the home in the front. The two made this arrangement so they could take care of their mother. He agreed to pay the water bill and she would pay some of the other utilities. Ken happily showed his sister their December water bill because it was significantly cheaper than usual.

It was then she noticed the water bill also included sewer charges. That upset her because for 22 years, she had been paying a sewer only bill. "The city is improperly charging my sister for sewer usage. I am already paying for water and sewer for the property," said Ken. He flushed the toilet. That's where Ken feels the money he's paid for his water bill has been going -- flushed down the toilet. No one knows for sure how this double payment of the sewer charge happened, but the city speculates the mistake occurred before the family even purchased the property.

The previous owners at one time received their water from a private underground water well and not from the city. Thus the occupants paid only for sewer charges. When those owners switched to city water, they began receiving from the city utility a combination water/sewer bill. At that point, the sewer only bill should have stopped, but that didn't happen. Kenneth said a city inspector told him to expect a refund. But for how much? City records go back 14 years and during that time he paid about \$11,000 in sewer charges. "Since the city is charging for services we didn't actually use, which is the sewer only charge that we should be reimbursed for the 22 years," said Ken. The city thought otherwise.

(MORE--->)

(CONT.)

It offered to reimburse the family charges from just three of the 22 years, citing caps on the amount of time you can let elapse before disputing a bill.

"They should make the customer whole. We've paid for a service that was not provided," said a frustrated Ken. He contacted 7 On Your Side for help. We contacted the city.

City attorney Eric Danly told 7 On Your Side and Fok, "The law presumes a certain amount of due diligence and oversight on the part of rate payers regarding their payments to the government." He agreed to increase the amount of the refund to four years.

MON 3/12/18 - ABC 7 NEWS 5PM (2:55)

Imagine you are very sick and head to the emergency room, only to later be told by your insurance company that it was not a true emergency. Even worse, you're now responsible for the bill. A new investigation from Consumer Reports finds more patients are getting stuck with big surprise bills from the ER. 7 On Your Side's Michael Finney explains. When Kimberly Fister-Mesch woke up in the middle of the night with head pain so severe, she thought she was having a stroke. Her husband rushed her to the ER. "The pain was so intense that I knew something had to be wrong," she said.

To her relief, the pain wasn't from a stroke, but a serious inner ear infection. Later, she received a bill around \$4,300 because her diagnosis was not considered a medical emergency by her insurer, Anthem. Instead, Anthem said she should have called the company's 24/7 online doctor service, or gone to her own doctor or urgent care.

Anthem is not the only health insurance company trying to discourage costly emergency-room care. Many insurers charge a higher co-pay for ER visits, compared with urgent care centers or walk-in retail clinics. But Anthem's approach takes those efforts to a potentially dangerous new level. Medical experts along with Consumer Reports say policies like Anthem's are leaving consumers with huge medical bills, and could keep patients from going to the ER when they should. "People don't come to us because they want to come to us," said Dr. Ryan Stanton, an ER Physician. "They come to us because they need us." How can you make sure this won't happen to you? "Check your insurer's "emergency service benefits" coverage to see how it defines an emergency and what your plan will and won't cover," said Margot Gilman, Consumer Reports Money Editor. "While most insurers offer general guidelines as to what constitutes an emergency, they don't limit policy holders to specific injuries or illnesses." And if your insurer rejects a claim, you have the right to do what Kimberly did, file an appeal. She sent a letter to her insurer, along with her medical records, and filed a complaint with her state's insurance regulator.

7 On Your Side's Consumer Expert Michael Finney "Ask Finney" Segments:

FRI 2/21/18 - ABC 7 NEWS 5PM (2:10)

Topics: Finding a certified public accountant, fighting internet scams, printer issues

Question: How do I find a new Certified Public Accountant? My CPA retired?

Answer: Ask your former C.P.A. if they have a recommendation. Then, ask friends and business associates. And remember to compare prices. Just in case, here are links to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the California Society of CPA's.

Question:

How do I deal with an internet scam? It's asking me to send them money at a Western Union in exchange for a huge cash grant.

Answer:

I'm glad you realized it's a scam. Ignore it and never have contact with them, again. You should file a complaint. Here is a link to the Internet Crime Complaint Center.

Question:

I'm on my third printer from the same company. The third replacement isn't working either. What should I do? I'm on a fixed income.

Answer:

If they've been giving you a replacement, you shouldn't be shelling out more money. It should be an even exchange. After three times, they clearly have an issue. Ask for a refund. If you need my help, contact me here at the station.

WED 3/16/18 - ABC 7 NEWS 5PM (2:10)

**Topics: Concert Ticket Resellers, Mortgage Lenders,
Discontinue Charity Mail**

Question:

I purchased two tickets from the ticket re-seller, Vivid Seats. Do you know how their ticket prices are broken down? And their refund policy?

Answer:

Vivid Seats breaks down their prices by the ticket price, taxes, service and delivery charges. They will offer a full refund, including the delivery charges, if the event was canceled with no other event planned. But if the event was rescheduled, they will either reissue another ticket or help you resell your ticket. Click [here](#) for more information.

Question:

How can I find the best mortgage lender? I prefer face-to-face contact.

Answer:

Check with the financial institutions you are involved with now: banks, savings, and loans. Then, ask friends for referrals to a mortgage broker. Brokers are the very definition of face-to-face. They work with you and a number of financial institutions. Even if you go the face-to-face route, please check figures online, so you have an idea of how the numbers should stack up.

Question:

How can I stop getting mail, like stickers and note cards, from charities I donate to?

Answer:

That's nice of you to donate to important charities. Your best bet is to contact them, and tell them you would like to stop receiving notices and trinkets. Also, check to see if they have a return card, and indicate you would like to be removed from their mailing list. For two bucks, the website DMA Choice may stop those charity offers.

FRI 2/16/18 - ABC 7 NEWS 5PM (2:45)

Topics: Spring break deals, Disability Benefits, SF Parking Rules

Question:

I just found out I can take some time off to go on spring break next month. How hard is it going to be to find an affordable vacation package with only weeks to spare?

Answer:

You can probably still get some pretty good deals on flights, but hotels could cost you. My advice at this point is to pick the kind of vacation you want, not the destination. If you want beach, check for flights to Hawaii, Mexico and the Caribbean. If you want Europe, don't pick a country. Pick the best airline prices.

Question:

I hurt my back and applied for disability benefits more than a month ago and haven't heard anything back yet from the state. How long does it take?

Answer :

There may be an issue. The state promises to get back with benefits information within two weeks. So, call and make sure all of your paperwork is in order and the process is underway. Now, it can take longer if the state investigates the claim. But, they should be able to give you an approximate date.

Question:

I bought a car for my son to work on in his free time, which he'll drive when he's 16 this summer. I was told I can't legally park it on the street. Is this true?

Answer:

That is probably true. Parking on the street is for temporary parking, not permanent storage and definitely not for mechanical work. If the car is not licensed, it probably can't be there at all. You'll be ticketed for sure and probably towed. If it is licensed, most cities have a three day rule. It can be towed after three days if parked in the same spot. Many locations do not allow any mechanical work to be done on the road other than emergency services like flat tires, that type of thing.

CRIME & LAW ENFORCEMENT

THU 1/4/18 - ABC7 NEWS 11PM - (1:00)

Officials say they have arrested a suspect in the sexual assault and robbery of a female employee at Harker Middle School in San Jose. Police stepped up patrols near the area shortly after the assault took place. At one point there were several police officers in the school's parking lot during morning drop off. The victim told police she was attacked in a classroom around 6AM. A spokesperson for Harker said it was an hour before any students arrived on campus.

The victim is a teacher and had arrived early to prepare her classroom for the first day of school after the winter break. The suspect was caught on surveillance camera roaming the campus from 4 a.m. up until the attack happened. He was then seen walking away from the area.

TUE 1/16/18 - ABC7 NEWS 11PM - 1:28)

San Jose police have arrested a dozen people -- breaking up what investigators call a violent, criminal street gang. Seven adults and five juveniles were arrested. The juveniles range in age from 15 to 17 years old. Police say the group is responsible for at least 30 carjackings and robberies since the summer.

During a robbery at Flanigan Dr. and King Rd., the victim was hit in the head with a brick. He suffered a fractured skull. During a carjacking at McKee and White Roads, the suspects had an AR-15 and fired it into the air. Police served nine search and arrest warrants on January 10, and took the 12 suspects into custody. Charges include robbery, carjacking, burglary, assault with a deadly weapon, resisting arrest, child endangerment, possession of a loaded firearm, possession of stolen property, possession of drugs, and gang enhancement.

FRI 2/23/18 - ABC7 NEWS 11PM - (1:25)

Berkeley police released surveillance video to show just how quickly thieves are snatching laptops from coffee shop customers. "Students have their laptops out a lot -- doing a lot of studying," said Qais Faraj, an employee at Sack's Coffee House. "People know that, take advantage of it. So we've become a target."

There have been more than 25 laptop thefts within two months, and that has people taking matters into their own hands. UC Berkeley student Alex Ferguson witnessed a citizen's arrest Friday afternoon. "They kind of scanned the laptop area before and they just grabbed the laptop right over here in this area and like sprinted out." Several customers chased after thieves on College Avenue.

"I think one of them had an athlete backpack on too so he was pretty quick to it," Ferguson added. Witnesses say the laptop thief ran out of the coffee shop to a waiting vehicle, handed the laptop off, then took off down the road. So the laptop, unfortunately, was not recovered. "I have witnessed more than five or six times myself," said coffee shop visitor Sagar Gajurel. The problem is so pervasive police are now going undercover in the coffee shops. The tactic led to the arrest of six people this past weekend and police say their undercover work will continue.

TUE 2/27/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM - (1:40)

By a 5-0 vote the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Tuesday committed to organizing a summit looking at gun violence in the next 60 days. It seeks input from the public, from social service agencies, from law enforcement and from other stakeholders to look into such issues as more extensive background checks for gun buyers, creating safer school campuses, and addressing concerns about guns in the possession of people with mental health issues without stigmatizing those individuals. "I'm a gun owner. We have to be open to dialogue," said Board of Supervisors President Dave Cortese during discussion before the vote. The summit was his proposal. Among members of the public who spoke during the board meeting was Joel Rodriguez, interscholastic coordinator for the group "March for Our Lives." The Prospect High School student called the summit a "bold move." He added, "Living in California, we are not exempt from this issue (of gun violence)."

Santa Clara County Sheriff Laurie Smith said she is looking forward to participating in the process. Supervisor Cindy Chavez said she specifically wanted input from Sheriff Smith to help identify which school campuses are unsafe and what opportunities are there to make the safer. The issue of gun violence has gained urgency as a result of the gun attack on the high school in Parkland, FL this month. However, even San Jose has been impacted. In March 2015, San Jose Police Officer Michael Johnson was shot and killed responding to a report of a man with a gun. The suspect, Scottt Dunham, was described by relatives as possibly suffering from an undisclosed mental illness. Supervisor Cortese said he hopes one outcome of the summit will be a call for more sharing of information about people with mental health issues so those dealing with them will be aware of their diagnosis. Even as Santa Clara County is preparing to hold a summit, others who are seeking gun law reform are protesting outside a gun store in Castro Valley Tuesday afternoon.

FRI 3/9/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM - (1:00)

A suspect arrested on suspicion of slaying a 60-year-old man in Walnut Creek was being held on \$1 million bail. One man is dead in what police are calling a violent and unexpected attack. It happened at a construction site on Lacassie Avenue Thursday evening. Police were called just before 7PM and describe finding the victim, identified as 60-year-old Harry Swayne III from San Pablo, in a pool of blood.

The suspect, 34-year-old Hakim Madjoul from Concord, was arrested for murder. Both men worked as security guards at the large-scale apartment project. Police say this appears to be an unprovoked attack. "The weapon that was used was a 4-foot-long metal pole," said Sergeant Andy Brown with the Walnut Creek Police Department. "And it's about 4 or 5 pounds in weight. It was used to strike the victim in the head multiple times."

Construction worker Jose Alvarado remembers Swayne as a nice guy. "It's crazy you know. I talked to him yesterday night," said Alvarado. The last homicide in Walnut Creek was in April of 2017. "Having a homicide in our town is a rare event," said Sergeant Brown. "It happens approximately once a year or so. I want to reassure the residents in this case the victim and suspect knew each other. They were from other cities. They worked here in Walnut Creek together. So the assault, the attack was an isolated incident."

MON 3/12/18 - ABC7 NEWS 3PM - (2:15)

Officers from Marin to Sonoma County are searching for armed and dangerous suspects following home invasion robberies that occurred in Petaluma early Monday morning. Residents living in Novato's Wood Hollow neighborhood were asked to shelter-in-place earlier while officials searched for the suspects, but the order has since been lifted as they continue their search elsewhere. The incidents occurred shortly after 3AM at several homes on Eugenia Drive and officials believe the suspects are now 12 miles away near the Fireman's Fund Campus in Novato.

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Spencer Crum said they received a call of three different residential home invasion robberies. "When we arrived at the scene, we learned several suspects were armed with handguns, kicked in doors, tied up residents, pistol whipped a resident in search of marijuana." Crum said no marijuana was located and that none of the victims were associated with marijuana sales or cultivation. "When they were leaving, Petaluma police noticed two vehicles leaving the area, they tried to a traffic stop on them, and then went on a vehicle pursuit," he said.

Petaluma police chased two suspect vehicles to Novato. Crum said at one point during the chase, the white mini van police were chasing stopped on the side of the freeway and five suspects jumped out, hopped a fence and then ran up into the hills. Police arrested one suspect, but four others are still on the run. The suspect was arrested after going to a home and asking a resident to call Uber, but that resident called police instead.

The other suspect vehicle was spotted at Costco on Vintage Way where three people were arrested and one woman got away. At this time, a total of four people are in custody and police are still searching for five suspects. Police said they found firearms in the vehicles. The sheriff's office says these people flew in from the East Coast to commit these crimes. Police said they were in search of marijuana, but it turns out the homes they targeted were not growing marijuana at all.

IMMIGRATION ISSUES

FRI 1/26/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM (1:45)

Customs and Border Patrol Vehicle Parked on Cal Campus Sparks Fear of Raid

A U.S. Customs and Border Patrol vehicle parked on the Cal campus Friday afternoon led to fears of an ICE raid. Both the university and the mayor of Berkeley mobilized.

"Obviously there's a great deal of concern particularly given the ICE director's announcement that they plan on conducting 1,500 arrests in California," said Berkeley Mayor Jessie Arreguin. Someone snapped a picture of the ICE vehicle and sent it to a Latina activist group. They Tweeted: "URGENT: ICE has been confirmed on the northwest side of U.C. Berkeley." Arreguin says the fear of a raid is real. "We do know that it's going to happen at some point and it's a sad reality."

Cal's undocumented student program sent out a note offering its offices to students if they felt threatened. They tweeted about the situation, saying in part that ICE was invited to speak on campus: We have received reports of ICE on the Berkeley campus. Our understanding is that that they were invited to speak at the Global Entry Program about TSA checks and advice for international students. There is no raid. "I think it shows just a heightened sense of concern in our community," said Arreguin. The undocumented student program says the global entry program has agreed to notify them ahead of future campus visits. There will be additional global entry interviews in February and April.

THU 3/8/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM (2:05)

President Trump Criticizes Oakland Mayor Schaaf for ICE Warning, Schaaf Fires Back

President Donald Trump took a swipe at Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf over immigration, a day after his attorney general did the same thing. Trump called her a "disgrace" for warning undocumented immigrants ICE agents were planning a series of raids in California.

Trump never mentioned Schaaf by name, but there was no doubt who he was talking about and why. "What the mayor of Oakland did the other day was a disgrace," Trump said. Trump made this comment a day after Attorney General Jeff Sessions came to Sacramento to file a lawsuit against California's sanctuary city policies and also criticize Schaaf for blowing the lid off a series of planned raids by ICE.

"They say 85 percent of them were criminals and the mayor went out and she warned them all," Trump added. Earlier Thursday, Schaaf responded to the criticism outside an International Women's Day gathering in San Francisco. In an interview, provided to ABC7 News by the mayor's public affairs office, she says she's getting a lot of local support. "I am so appreciative of the Oakland Community," said Schaaf. "I have obviously gotten much criticism, but much of it is from outside the community."

WED 3/13/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM (2:05)

State Assembly Bill Would Punish California Companies that Help Build the Border Wall

California Assemblyman Phil Ting says the state "should build bridges, not walls." If a California company opts to contract or subcontract the wall along the U.S. Mexico border, the San Francisco Democrat wants to deny them state tax breaks. He has introduced legislation. "If you want to be part of the building of that wall you can't access any of our tax breaks or incentives." Ting says more than 375 firms nationwide have expressed interest in working on the wall. the Tax breaks California companies would forfeit under his legislation include a break for hiring new employees and a credit for buying manufacturing and research equipment. It's the latest effort by opponents to halt what the President describes as his "big beautiful border wall."

Republican strategist and RNC member Harmeet Dhillon calls the bill a stunt. "I'm sure there will be more than enough companies outside California willing to bid on and build the wall, so it's empty rhetoric and all its doing is denying California employees and corporations the ability to earn a gainful living in a legal way." Ting says Mexico is California's biggest trading partner to the tune of 25 billion a year.. he says the border wall could "spur market instability" throughout California's economy. Still, he expects a challenge at the State Capitol, particularly from business groups. He expects his bill to be heard in committee next month.

TUE 3/13/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM (1:55)

ICE Agents Allegedly Violated California Law in S F Jails

San Francisco Sheriff's deputies are at county jails after ICE agents were allegedly allowed inside to conduct an interview with undocumented inmate, a direct violation of the city and state's sanctuary laws. The breach happened last Thursday at two of San Francisco's jails. "ICE agents came to our jail and unfortunately they were let in and should not have been," said San Francisco Sheriff Vicki Hennessy. San Francisco is a sanctuary city. As such, the Department has broad restrictions against cooperating with ICE agents who want to interview undocumented inmates. Hennessy says it was a mistake and she holds herself accountable. "I was pretty shocked to see that this happened and I was extremely disappointed," she said. ICE agents interviewed one inmate. The other refused to cooperate.

Both are clients of Public Defender Jeff Adachi's office. He says ICE placed a federal detainer on the one who talked to them. "Even if he is released from custody, ICE would have a detainer and would be able to keep him in custody," Hennessy said. The Sheriff has launched an investigation. Adachi says some of his lawyers were at the jail at the time and that they called him saying ICE agents were there and that they asked a deputy for an explanation.

"They approached one of the deputies and said 'why are you letting ICE agents in? And they were told, 'we treat ICE agents just like anyone else.'" And that's a direct violation, Adachi says of state and city law. Hennessy says she has issued a department-wide bulletin reaffirming its policy on ICE. "That briefing is being read to everybody at every shift...that's three shifts a day for seven days of the week," said Hennessy. She says it seems to be working. Yesterday, ICE agents returned to county jail and asked for yet another interview with an inmate. This time, they were denied.

WED 3/14/18 - ABC7 NEWS 4PM (1:50)

Oakland Lawmakers Pass Border Wall Company Boycott

Oakland city leaders are proposing a boycott of any company that works on President Trump's border wall. The measure just cleared a major hurdle at City Hall Tuesday. In a unanimous vote, the City Council Finance Committee passed a resolution that says Oakland will boycott any company that helps design or construct the 2,000-mile border wall with Mexico.

"It doesn't reflect our values as a city... and tax dollars should not be used to create barriers across our barriers across our border that prohibit commerce and trade and certainly separate families...as well as does nothing to solve our immigration problems as a community," said Oakland City Council member Abel Guillen. Oakland's Shimmick Construction is among 600 companies that have formally expressed interest in helping with the wall. Shimmick has done work for Bart in the Bay Area.

WED 3/21/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM (1:50)

ICE chief blames Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf Yet Again

Just when you thought the dust had settled, the acting chief of ICE has, once again, accused the mayor of Oakland of putting the public in danger. Last month, Acting ICE Director Tom Homan claimed that Libby Schaaf's public warning of ICE actions allowed hundreds of criminal immigrants to avoid arrest. Now, Homan says several of those individuals have committed new crimes.

"Eighty-one percent of all aliens we arrested in California last year were convicted criminals," said Homan at a White House roundtable Tuesday. ICE claims a second man was arrested for DUI and a third man for spousal abuse. An agency spokesman in San Francisco tells ABC7 News the three arrests were made outside the Bay Area, in Los Banos, the Sacramento area and Tulare County.

TRANSPORTATION

WED 2/17/18 - ABC7 NEWS 4PM (1:45)

There were tense moments for hundreds of tech workers traveling aboard buses on Interstate 280 near Woodside yesterday. The CHP is now investigating a series of suspected attacks on those employee shuttles. Detectives need your help. A total of five buses carrying Apple and Google employees were hit Tuesday with an unknown object. "It's just so sad, what's with this violence -- I don't understand," said San Francisco resident Camille Cusumano. "Now I have to pay extra attention when I'm on the freeway."

The unmarked buses, which were carrying hundreds of tech workers between San Francisco and the South Bay, were hit at different times throughout the day. Investigators believe the attacks were intentional. "We believe that it was not some rock that was kicked off the roadway, but actually it might've been someone that was throwing something at these buses, or shooting at these buses," said Officer Art Montiel of the CHP. Late Tuesday night, Apple officials said buses would be re-routed for the time being, as the CHP conducts its investigation. Some riders were told to expect an additional 30 to 45 min. of commute time in each direction.

WED 2/28/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM (1:57)

CHP Using Decoy Buses in Effort to Track Down Suspects in Peninsula Attacks

The California Highway Patrol is using a decoy bus in an effort to track down whoever has been shooting at buses along the I-280 corridor. Officers are driving bait buses hoping to draw fire from the suspect or suspects. The agency is also getting help from the FBI. "They're looking at damage on the bus and looking at what angle the projectile is coming from," CHP Golden Gate Division Commander Ernest Sanchez said.

There have been 20 strikes in the past 45 days. Sanchez says they have a description of the vehicle they believe is involved in the attacks. They also have unmarked cars cruising the area between Woodside and Cupertino. "They've damaged windows, they've dented the exterior of the vehicles," Sanchez said. A \$10,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest the person or people responsible. The agency is asking for the public's help. "What we're doing is alerting officers statewide, primarily in the Bay Area, during their interaction with the public to ask questions about something they may have seen traveling on the 280," Sanchez said. "So the message is clear, if you're shooter out there, it's just a matter of time, we will catch you and prosecute you to the full extent of the law," Sanchez said.

MON 3/5/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM (2:20)

Traffic Calming Circle Leaves Some San Francisco Residents Fuming

Residents of one San Francisco neighborhood are furious over two so-called "traffic calming circles" that have gone up on Euclid Street. They are meant to enhance safety on the street, but people there say they've seen opposite results. "They are killing a fly with a sledgehammer," says Lynn Jimenez, a neighbor who was referring to the circular structure made of concrete, located smack in the middle of Euclid Street in Laurel Heights. Not to be confused with a roundabout, the city is instead calling it a "traffic calming circle." Many here call it trouble. "Traffic now has to encroach on the bicycle lane to get around this thing and to get through the intersection and when you are riding a bicycle which I do, there is a competition for space," complained Brian Seifert who lives across the street from the concrete circle. The main complaint is that most drivers don't realize they must first come to a four-way stop, something your typical roundabout doesn't have. One after another drivers roll through the stop sign. And near misses are not uncommon.

"I have a nearly three-year-old son who likes to ride his scooter. I like it when cars stop when he's doing that," said Donald Cutler, a nearby resident who says he now avoids this area. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency says, in fact, it was neighbors who wanted something done about cars speeding through here. It was at this precise intersection that in 2015 a two-year-old was critically injured when a car hit her stroller. That was then-supervisor Mark Farrell's district. "It's changing the status quo, it takes a little bit of getting used to but it's the right answer at the end of the day," said Farrell who is now serving as the city's interim mayor. "What they should is -- I'd rip it out, put a stop light or multiple stops signs or flashing lights like they have in front of civic center. What's wrong with putting flashing lights at the intersection?" said Jimenez. The SFMTA says it will continue to monitor its impact on the neighborhood.

TUE 3/6/18 - ABC7 MORNING NEWS (1:40)

Lawmakers Introduce Transit Development Bill for BART

Another effort is underway to push new housing development near public transportation. This time, a bill would essentially force cities to build housing on BART property, including parking lots. A proposed bill would require BART projects to meet certain standards, like the number of affordable housing units. The lawmakers behind this plan say families are spending too much money on housing and too much time commuting to their jobs. So they've come up with a plan to solve both of those issues together.

The bill from Assemblymen David Chiu of San Francisco and Timothy Grayson of Concord would require BART projects to meet certain standards, like the number of affordable housing units. It also requires local governments to change zoning rules to accommodate BART's plans in order to streamline the projects. They say they would like to see at least 20,000 new housing units built around BART stations in the coming years.

Assemblyman Chiu points to the parking lots surrounding many BART stations and how empty they are at night. "It's critical for our environment to reduce congestion, reduce greenhouse gases, to increase transit ridership," said Assm. David Chiu (D) San Francisco. The lawmakers hope this will help speed up projects like the 94-unit, affordable-housing complex "Casa Arabella" that just broke ground last week near the Fruitvale BART station. It was supposed to open in 2008. The San Francisco Chronicle reports it had been 24 years since the plan for the transit village was conceived and 14 years since the 47-unit first phase opened.

TUE 3/8/18 - ABC7 MORNING NEWS (1:30)

The Bay Area Toll Authority has decided to look into adding a third lane to the westbound section of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, according to our partner the Marin Independent Journal.

The evening commute is about to get a break. The eastbound section of the bridge is about to open the shoulder to cars during peak times -- that is set to start next month. Now they are turning their attention to the westbound section. They have voted to spend \$100,000 studying this idea. Traffic on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge has grown 13 percent from five years ago.

MON 3/12/18 - ABC7 MORNING NEWS (:55)

A proposed state bill would allow the City of San Francisco to charge cars to enter downtown. If passed, some California cities could implement their own congestion-pricing pilot programs, called Go Zones.

Senator Scott Wiener introduced the bill. He says the Go Zones would alleviate traffic congestion, decrease accidents and support other transportation systems. The State Senate bill could be heard as soon as next Monday.

WED 1/31/18 - ABC7 NEWS 5PM (1:57)

Woman fatally struck by SMART train in Santa Rosa

It happens to every major railroad, and SMART train is not immune. This morning, a female was struck and killed by a Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit train in Santa Rosa Wednesday morning, according to a Sonoma County fire and emergency dispatcher. The collision was reported at 7:36 a.m. in Santa Rosa at Hearn Avenue near Whitewood Drive. SMART says everything in the intersection functioned normally---the lights, the traffic arms, the horn on the train and a video camera on board that captured everything. The train hit the victim at full speed, about 79 miles an hour, and the body came to rest roughly 50 yards down the track. SMART Service was suspended but began after the crash investigation.

The eastbound lane is closed, and drivers can expect long delays in both directions. This accident comes one day after The Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District announced it received more funding from the state, an estimated \$10.5 million. It will help increase service because of its popularity.